Numb. 27

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Quicquid agunt Homines noſtri Farrago Libelli.

From *Thurſday June* 9. to *Saturday June* 11. 1709.

White's Chocolate-houſe, June 9.

Pacolet being gone a ſtrolling among the Men of the Sword, in order to find out the ſecret Cauſes of the frequent Diſputes we meet with, and furniſh me with Materials for my Treatiſe on Duelling; I have Room left to go on in my Information to my Country Readers, whereby they may underſtand the bright People whoſe Memoirs I have taken upon me to write. But in my Diſcourſe of the 28th of the laſt Month, I omitted to mention the moſt agreeable of all bad Characters; and that is, a Rake. A Rake is a Man always to be pitied; and if he lives, is one Day certainly reclaimed; for his Faults proceed not from Choice or Inclination, but from ſtrong Paſſions and Appetites, which are in Youth too violent for the Curb of Reaſon, good Senſe, good Manners, and good Nature: All which he muſt have by Nature and Education, before he can be allow'd to be, or have been, of this Order. He is a poor unweildy Wretch, that commits Faults out of the Redundance of his good Qualities. His Pity and Compaſſion makes him ſometimes a Bubble to all his Fellows, let 'em be never ſo much below him in Underſtanding. His Deſires run away with him through the Strength and Force of a lively Imagination, which hurries him away to unlawful Pleaſures, before Reaſon has Power to come to his Reſcue. Thus, with all the good Intentions in the World to Amendment, this Creature ſins on againſt Heaven, himſelf, his Friends, and his Country, who all call for a better Uſe of his Talents. There is not a Being under the Sun ſo miſerable as this: He goes on in a Purſuit he himſelf diſapproves, and has no Enjoyment but what is followed by Remorſe; no Relief from Remorſe, but repeating his Crime. It's poſſible I may talk of this Perſon with too much Indulgence; but I muſt repeat it, that I think this, a Character which is the moſt the Object of Pity of any in the World. The Man in the Pangs of the Stone, Gout, or any acute Diſtemper, is not in ſo deplorable a Condition in the Eye of right Senſe, as he that errs and repents, and repents and errs on. The Fellow with broken Limbs juſtly deſerves your Alms for his impotent Condition; but he that can't uſe his own Reaſon, is in a much worſe State; for you ſee him in miſerable Circumſtances, with his Remedy at the ſame Time in his own Poſſeſſion, if he would or could uſe it. This is the Cauſe, that this of all ill Characters has the beſt Quarter in the World; for when he is himſelf, and unruffled with Intemperance, you ſee his natural Faculties exert themſelves, and attract an Eye of Favour towards his Infirmities. But if we look round us here, how many dull Rogues are there, that would fain be what this poor Man hates himſelf for? All the Noiſe towards Six in the Evening, is cauſed by his Mimicks and Imitators. How ought Men of Senſe to be careful of their Actions, if it were meerly from the Indignation of ſeeing themſelves ill drawn by ſuch little Pretenders? Not to ſay, he that leads, is guilty of all the Actions of his Followers: And a Rake has Imitators whom you would never expect ſhould prove ſo. Second-hand Vice ſure of all is the moſt nauſeous: There is hardly a Folly more abſurd, or which ſeems leſs to be accounted for, (tho' 'tis what we ſee every Day) than, that grave and honeſt Natures give into this Way, and at the ſame Time have good Senſe, if they thought fit to uſe it: But the Fatality (under which moſt Men labour) of deſiring to be what they are not, makes 'em go out of a Method in which they might be receiv'd with Applauſe, and in which they would excel; into one, wherein they will all their Life have the Air of Strangers to what they aim at. For this Reaſon, I have not lamented the Metamorphoſis of any one I know ſo much as of *Nobilis*, who was born with Sweetneſs of Temper, juſt Apprehenſion, and every Thing elſe that might make him a Man fit for his Order. But inſtead of the Purſuit of ſober Studies, and Applications, in which he would certainly be capable of making a conſiderable Figure in the nobleſt Aſſembly of Men in the World: I ſay, in Spight of that good Nature, which is his proper Bent, he will ſay ill-natur'd Things aloud, put ſuch as he was, and ſtill ſhould be, out of Countenance, and drown all the natural Good in him, to receive artificial ill Character, in which he will never ſucceed: For *Nobilis* is no Rake. He may guzzle as much Wine as he pleaſes, talk Bawdy if he thinks fit; but he may as well drink Water-gruel, and go twice a Day to Church, for it will never do. I pronounce again, *Nobilis* is no Rake. To be of that Order, he muſt be vicious againſt his Will, and not ſo by Study or Application. All Pretty Fellows are alſo excluded to a Man, as well as all Inamaratoes, or Perſons of the Epicene Gender, who gaze at one another in the Preſence of Ladies. This Claſs, of which I am giving you an Account, is pretended to alſo by the Men of ſtrong Abilities in Drinking; tho' they are ſuch whom the Liquor, not the Converſation, keeps together. But Blockheads may roar, fight, and ſtab, and be never the nearer; their Labour is alſo loſt; they want Senſe: They are no Rakes.

As a Rake among Men is the Man who lives in the conſtant Abuſe of his Reaſon, ſo a Coquet among Women is one who lives in continual Miſapplication of her Beauty. The chief of all whom I have the Honour to be acquainted with, is pretty Mrs. *Toſs*: She is ever in Practice of ſomething which diſfigures her, and takes from her Charms; tho' all ſhe does tends to a contrary Effect. She has naturally a very agreeable Voice and Utterance, which ſhe has chang'd for the prettieſt Liſp imaginable. She ſees what ſhe has a Mind to ſee, at half a Mile Diſtance; but poring with her Eyes half ſhut at every one ſhe paſſes by, ſhe believes much more becoming. The *Cupid* on her Fan and ſhe have their Eyes full on each other, all the Time in which they are not both in Motion. Whenever her Eye is turn'd from that dear Object, you may have a Glance and your Bow, if ſhe is in Humour, return'd as civilly as you make it; but that muſt not be in the Preſence of a Man of greater Quality: For Mrs. *Toſs* is ſo thoroughly well bred, that the chief Perſon preſent has all her Regards. And ſhe, who giggles at Divine Service, and laughs at her very Mother, can compoſe her ſelf at the Approach of a Man of a good Eſtate.

Will's Coffee-houſe, June 9.

A fine Lady ſhow'd a Gentleman of this Company, for an eternal Anſwer to all his Addreſſes, a Paper of Verſes, with which ſhe is ſo captivated, that ſhe pro-

profeſs'd, the Author ſhould be the happy Man in Spight of all other Pretenders. It is ordinary for Love to make Men Poetical, and it had that Effect on this enamour'd Man: But he was reſolv'd to try his Vein upon ſome of her Confidents or Retinue, before he ventur'd upon ſo high a Theme as her ſelf. To do otherwiſe than ſo, would be like making an Heroick Poem a Man's firſt Attempt. Among the Favourites to the Fair One, he found her Parrot not to be in the laſt Degree: He ſaw *Poll* had her Ear, when his Sighs were neglected. To write againſt him, had been a fruitleſs Labour; therefore he reſolv'd to flatter him into his Intereſts, in the following Manner:

To a Lady on her Parrot.

When Nymphs were coy, and Love could not prevail,
The Gods diſguis'd were ſeldom known to fail,
Leda *was chaſt, but yet a Feather'd* Jove
Surpris'd the Fair, and taught her how to love.
There's no Celeſtial but his Heav'n would quit,
For any Form which might to thee admit.
See how the wanton Bird, at every Glance,
Swells his glad Plumes, and feels an amorous Trance.
The Queen of Beauty has forſook the Dove,
Henceforth the Parrot be the Bird of Love.

It is indeed a very juſt Propoſition, to give that Honour rather to the Parrot than the other Volatile. The Parrot repreſents us in the State of making Love: The Dove in the Poſſeſſion of what we love. But inſtead of turning the Dove off, I fancy it would be better if the Chaiſe of *Venus* had hereafter a Parrot added; as we ſee ſometimes a Third Horſe to a Coach. This might intimate, That to be a Parrot, is the only Way to ſucceed; and to be a Dove, to preſerve your Conqueſts. If the Swain would go on ſucceſsfully, he muſt imitate the Bird he writes upon. For he who would be loved by Women, muſt never be ſilent before the Favour, or open his Lips after it.

From my own Apartment, June 10.

I have ſo many Meſſages from young Gentlemen who expect Preferment and Diſtinction, that I am wholly at a Loſs in what Manner to acquit my ſelf. The Writer of the following Letter tells me in a Poſtſcript, he cannot go out of Town till I have taken ſome Notice of him, and is very urgent to be ſome Body in Town before he leaves it, and returns to his Commons at the Univerſity. But take it from himſelf.

To *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq; Monitor General of *Great Britain*.

SIR, Shire-Lane, June 8.

I HAVE been above 6 Months from the Univerſity, of Age theſe 3 Months, and ſo long in Town. I was recommended to one Charles Bubbleboy *near the* Temple, *who has ſupply'd me with all the Furniture he ſays a Gentleman ought to have. I deſir'd a Certificate thereof from him, which he ſaid would take ſome Time to conſider of; and when I went yeſterday Morning for it, he tells me, upon due Conſideration, I ſtill want ſome few odd Things more, to the Value of Threeſcore or Fourſcore Pounds, to make me compleat. I have beſpoke them; and the Favour I beg of you is, to know, when I am equip'd, in what Part or Claſs of Men in this Town you will place me. Pray ſend me Word what I am, and you ſhall find me,*

SIR,

Your moſt humble Servant,

Jeffry Nicknack.

I am very willing to encourage young Beginners; but am extreamly in the Dark how to introduce this Gentleman. I cannot ſee either his Perſon or Habit in this Letter; but I'll call at *Charles*'s, and know the Shape of his Snuff-Box, by which I can ſettle his Character. Though indeed, to know his full Capacity, I ought to be informed, whether he takes *Spaniſh* or *Muſty*.

St. James's Coffee-houſe, June 10.

Letters from the *Low Countries* of the 17th Inſtant ſay, That the Duke of *Marlborough* and the Prince of *Savoy* intended to leave *Ghent* on that Day, and join the Army, which lies between *Pont d'Eſpierre* and *Courtray*, their Head Quarters being at *Helchin*. The ſame Day the *Palatine* Foot was expected at *Bruſſels*. Lieutenant General *Dompre*, with a Body of Eight Thouſand Men, is poſted at *Aloſt*, in order to cover *Ghent* and *Bruſſels*. The Marſhal *de Villars* was full on the Plains of *Lens*; and it is ſaid, the Duke of *Vendoſme* is appointed to command in Conjunction with that General. Advices from *Paris* ſay, Monſieur *Voiſin* is made Secretary of State, upon Monſieur *Chamillard*'s Reſignation of that Employment. The Want of Money in that Kingdom is ſo great, that the Court has thought fit to command all the Plate of private Families to be brought into the Mint. They write from the *Hague* of the 15th, That the States of *Holland* continue their Seſſion; and that they have approved the Reſolution of the States General, to publiſh a ſecond Edict to prohibit the Sale of Corn to the Enemy's Country. Many eminent Perſons in that Aſſembly have declared, that they are of Opinion, that all Commerce whatſoever with the Enemy ſhould be wholly forbidden: That Point is under preſent Deliberation; but it is fear'd it will meet with powerful Oppoſition.

Whereas ſeveral Gentlemen have deſir'd this Paper, with a blank Leaf to write Buſineſs on, and for the Convenience of the Poſt; This is to give Notice, That this Day, and for the future, it may be had of Mr. Morphew *near* Stationers-Hall.

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